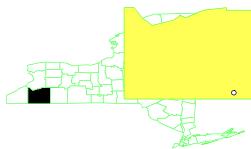


OLEAN WELL FIELD

NEW YORK

EPA ID# NYD980528657



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 31
Cattaraugus County
Olean

Site Description

The 1.5 square-mile Olean Well Field Superfund Site is comprised of three public and 50 private wells which are contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE). Much of the groundwater contamination is believed to be the result of industrial operations at several nearby commercial establishments. Contamination of the areas was discovered in 1981. The public wells were constructed in the 1970s to alleviate the need for a surface water treatment plant, which draws water from Olean Creek. However, use of the wells was discontinued after Olean city officials detected TCE in the groundwater. In 1990, the public wells were reactivated after two air strippers were constructed to treat the groundwater. Site-related contaminants have migrated from shallow groundwater to deeper levels. The groundwater located in the upper level flows toward and discharges into the Allegheny River. Approximately 18,200 people live in the City of Olean.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/01/81

Final Date: 09/01/83

Threats and Contaminants



The groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Three public wells and most residential wells are located within the area of groundwater contamination. On-site soil at the manufacturing facilities is contaminated with TCE and other VOCs. Area residents may have been exposed to the contaminants in their drinking water and through direct contact.



Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases, which are focusing on groundwater cleanup and controlling sources of contamination to the groundwater.

Response Action Status



Immediate Actions: Thirty-two home carbon treatment units for drinking water were installed on private wells and subsequent monitoring services were performed by the EPA between 1983 and 1985. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the EPA developed an interim cleanup action that provided for regular monitoring and the installation of additional carbon adsorption units, as necessary, until a permanent remedy was put in place. In 1990, contaminated soil was excavated and removed during the construction of an office building addition.



Groundwater: Based on the results of the initial site investigation, the remedies selected to clean up the site included: (1) reactivation of the three public wells and treatment of the groundwater using air strippers to reduce the TCE contamination to a level that protects human health; (2) extension of the city waterlines from the Town of Olean to connect approximately 93 residences served by private wells; (3) inspection of the McGraw-Edison industrial sewer and performing any necessary repair and/or replacement; and (4) recommendation of institutional controls to restrict withdrawal of contaminated groundwater for drinking purposes. Five thousand feet of sewer line have been replaced or cleaned. Water main extension work was completed in 1989. The extended water main also provides hydrants and fire protection to the targeted areas. Two air strippers were constructed at the public (municipal) wells in 1989 and, in 1990, the wells were reactivated.



Source Control: A supplemental RI/FS study, which was completed in June 1996, investigated thirteen properties for the presence of contamination. The study identified soil and groundwater contamination at four of the properties. On September 30, 1996, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD), which selected vacuum enhanced recovery, groundwater pump and treat and excavation to remove the sources of contamination to the groundwater. The design for the excavation site was completed in September 1998 and construction began in the Spring of 2000. Design of the groundwater pump and treat site was completed in March 2000 and

construction of the system was completed in May 2001. Studies performed during the design at the two other sites indicated that conditions at those sites had changed. Therefore, the Agency is reviewing petitions, from the PRPs, for modifications to the remedy selected in the 1996 ROD.

Site Facts: In 1984, the EPA issued unilateral administrative orders to six parties that currently or formerly owned and operated commercial establishments suspected of contributing to site contamination. In 1984, the PRPs submitted a report highlighting investigative studies required under the order to the EPA and the NYSDEC. The PRPs were issued a second unilateral administrative order in 1986. The order required the reactivation of three municipal wells and construction of two air strippers to treat the groundwater to reduce the TCE contamination to a safe level and extension of the City's water line into the Towns of Olean and Portville. In 1989, one of the PRPs was issued an administrative consent order to remove contaminated soil before the construction of an office building addition.

In June 1991, the PRPs signed an administrative consent order with the EPA to perform the supplemental RI/FS study. The order required the PRPs to perform soil and groundwater sampling at their properties. Concurrently, EPA took soil and groundwater samples at ten other properties. The supplemental RI/FS was completed in 1996.

Cleanup Progress



A second operable unit (OU2) ROD, which was issued on September 30, 1996, identified the following four source areas at the Olean Well Field and mandated the following remedies:

Source Area

The Alcas Manufacturing Facility

Remedy

Vacuum Enhanced Recovery (Soil Treatment)

The AVX Corporation Site

Soil Excavation, Groundwater Pump and Treatment

The McGraw-Edison Facility

Groundwater Pump and Treatment

The Loohn's Dry Cleaners
and Launderers Property

Soil Excavation

In September 1997, the PRPs for the Alcas, AVX and McGraw-Edison properties agreed to remediate their respective properties in accordance with the 1996 OU2 ROD. These agreements were embodied into three separate consent decrees, which were lodged in federal court on January 21, 1998. EPA is performing the remedy for the Loohn's Dry Cleaners property, since the owner of the business is not economically viable.

The required groundwater treatment system at the McGraw-Edison has been recently completed and shortly should be approved by EPA. In July 2000, approximately 5,055 tons of contaminated soils were removed from the AVX facility. However, post removal sampling has

confirmed that significant soil contamination still remains at this facility, particularly under the manufacturing building. A remedial design investigation study to install and operate a groundwater treatment system at the AVX site, as required by the 1996 OU2 ROD, is currently in progress.

A series of remedial investigations conducted at the Alcas property subsequent to the issuance of the 1998 Consent Decree has revealed the need for further field studies to adequately define the nature and extent of the contamination. These studies have determined that a major source of the contamination to the surrounding environmental media stems from a significant contaminant source located directly beneath the facility's manufacturing building. The PRP is pursuing an amendment to the remedy required by the 1996 ROD; additional studies are being conducted toward this end.

Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil still remains at the Loohn's property. EPA plans to complete the source removal at this site in Summer 2002.

Site Repository



Olean Public Library, Second and Laurens Streets, Olean, New York, 14760.